

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein.

Please add the following claims:

11. A method for producing a male-sterile plant comprising
- (a) ligating a first promoter to the upstream of a barnase gene, wherein said first promoter comprises a part of the nucleotide sequence of the promoter represented by SEQ ID NO:6,
 - (b) ligating a second promoter, wherein the second promoter is the same or different from the first promoter, to the upstream of a Barstar gene,
- wherein the first promoter and the second promoter cause anther-specific expression, and
- (c) transferring said genes into the a plant genome to thereby produce a substantially male-sterile plant.

12. A method for producing male-sterile plant as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first promoter comprises a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:6.

13. A method for producing a male-sterile plant as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first promoter comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:7.

14. A promoter comprising the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7 or a sequence obtained by modifying the same by the substitution or deletion of one or more nucleotides.

15. A promoter comprising the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7 or a sequence obtained by modifying the same by the substitution or deletion of ten or less nucleotides.

16. The promoter of claim 15, wherein said sequence is obtained by modifying SEQ ID NO:7 by the substitution or deletion of five or less nucleotides.

17. A plasmid vector which has a T-DNA comprising
i) a first promoter fragment and an RNase gene the expression of which is induced by the first promoter, and
ii) a second promoter wherein the second promoter is the same or different from the first promoter and an RNase inhibitor protein gene the expression of which is induced by the second promoter,

wherein said plasmid vector is capable of introducing said T-DNA into a plant cell genome when placed in Agrobacterium-infected plant cells.

18. A transgenic plant cell comprising

- i) a first promoter fragment and an RNase gene the expression of which is induced by the first promoter, and
 - ii) a second promoter wherein the second promoter is the same or different from the first promoter, and
 - iii) an RNase inhibitor protein gene the expression of which is induced by the second promoter,
- wherein said RNase inhibitor protein gene is transferred into the genome thereof,
- and a male-sterile plant regenerated from said cell.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing the changes made to the application by this Reply.